

Department of Justice

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OPERATION TARGETS METHAMPHETAMINE
MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION IN WARREN COUNTY
More Arrests in "Operation Saddle-Up"

Monmouth, Ill. – An ongoing cooperative and coordinated effort known as "Operation Saddle-Up" has expanded to Warren county with the federal indictment of eight more defendants. The defendants, named in a federal indictment unsealed yesterday, are charged with a single count of conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Jim Lewis, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, today joined representatives of the various law enforcement agencies working together including the Monmouth Police Department; Warren County Sheriff's Office; Warren County State's Attorney's Office; the Galesburg Police Department; the Knox County Sheriff's Office; the Illinois State Police, West Central Illinois Task Force, and the Multi-county Narcotic Enforcement Group, to announce the arrests and charges. The U.S. Marshals Service also assisted in making the arrests.

The indictment, returned last month but sealed pending the defendants' arrests, alleges that beginning in early 2009 and continuing to the present, the defendants conspired together and with others to manufacture and distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine.

Defendants charged who were arrested yesterday are scheduled to appear this afternoon in federal court in Peoria before U.S. Magistrate Judge John A. Gorman. Those charged include:

Scot W. Pence, 35, of Monmouth, Ill.;
William L. Marshall, 33, Illinois Department of Corrections custody;
Sean E. Moore, 30, Illinois Department of Corrections custody;
Leslie K. Montgomery, 33, of Monmouth;
Leslie O. Morrison, 51, last known address Galesburg;
Megan R. Kemmitt, 32, of Monmouth;
April A. Rice, 29, of Galesburg, (previously in custody in Knox County); and,
Brian E. Brentise, 48, of Abingdon, (previously in custody in Knox County).

If convicted, conspiracy to manufacture and distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine carries a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years to life in prison. If a defendant has one prior felony drug conviction, the mandatory minimum penalty is enhanced to 20 years to life in prison. With two or more prior felony drug convictions, the statutory penalty is life in prison without parole.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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